

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on January 16, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary
Pat Murdo, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 157, 1/8/2007; SB 151, 1/8/2007
Executive Action: SB 92

00:00:00 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

HEARING ON SB 157

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:04 **SEN. DON RYAN (D), SD 10**, opened the hearing on **SB 157**,
Revise insurance and security laws.

Proponents:

00:02:20 Erin McGowan-Fincham, State Auditor's Office (SAO)

EXHIBIT (bus10a01)

00:09:18 Frank Cote, America's Health Insurance Plan, and
Farmer's Union Insurance Company

00:10:44 Greg Van Horssen, State Fund Insurance Company

00:11:21 Larry Kibbee, Property Casualty Insurers Association
of America (PCIAA)

00:11:57 Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association, and
American Council of Life Insurers

EXHIBIT (bus10a02)

00:15:35 Tanya Ask, Montana Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS)

00:16:40 Don Allen, National Association of Insurance Advisors

00:17:37 Todd Lovshin, Allegiance Family of Companies

00:18:30 Tom Grau, Independent Insurance Agents Association of
Montana

00:19:18 Angela Huschka, New West Health Services

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:20:03 Sen. Brown to Sen. Ryan

00:20:39 Sen. Brown to Erin McGowan-Fincham, SAO

00:21:56 Sen. Balyeat to Erin McGowan-Fincham, SAO

00:23:05 Sen. Balyeat to Christina Goe, State Auditor's Office

Closing by Sponsor:

00:24:58 Sen. Ryan

Discussion:

00:26:35 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

HEARING ON SB 151

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:27:55 **SEN. DON RYAN (D), SD 10**, opened the hearing on **SB 151**,
Mandatory hearing aid coverage in health insurance.

EXHIBIT (bus10a03)

Proponents:

00:33:33 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association (MRA)

00:34:18 Ed Van Tighen, Association of the Deaf and Blind

00:35:12 Bob Deming, Former Superintendent for School of Deaf
and Blind

EXHIBIT (bus10a04)

00:37:25 Ed Bartlett, Montana Speech and Language Association

Opponents:

00:38:34 Tanya Ask, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana

EXHIBIT (bus10a05)

00:42:05 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:44:12 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent
Business (NFIB)

00:45:58 Frank Cote, America's Health Insurance Plans

00:47:16 Bruce Spencer, Montana Automobile Dealership
Association

00:49:18 Susan Witte, Vice President and General Counsel,
Allegiance Life and Health Insurance Company

EXHIBIT (bus10a06)

00:52:12 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

00:53:14 Don Allen, National Association of Insurance National
Advisors

00:55:14 Angela Huschka, New West Health Services

Informational Testimony:

00:57:12 Jim Aarons, Self

00:57:30 Bob Robinson, CEO, Montana School Services Foundation

EXHIBIT (bus10a07)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:58:25 Sen. Jackson to Susan Witte, Allegiance Life and Health
Insurance Company

01:00:33 Sen. Jackson to Tanya Ask, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of
Montana

01:01:11 Sen. Jackson to Christina Goe, SAO

01:02:09 Sen. Jackson to Sen. Ryan

01:04:33 Sen. Balyeat to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

01:07:00 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Ryan

01:11:20 Sen. Squires

01:12:55 Sen. Squires to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

01:20:30 Sen. Larson to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

01:26:11 Sen. Larson

01:26:40 Sen. Cocchiarella to Bob Deming, Former
Superintendent of School for Deaf and Blind

01:29:10 Sen. Cocchiarella to Bob Griffin, Montana Retail
Association (MRA)

01:30:01 Sen. Cocchiarella to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

Closing by Sponsor:

01:32:38 Sen. Ryan

Discussion:

01:40:06 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 92

01:41:41 **Motion:** SEN. JACKSON moved that SB 92 DO PASS.

01:42:45 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. JACKSON moved that AMENDMENT
SB009204.APM BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimously.

EXHIBIT(bus10a08)

01:46:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN.
RYAN voted yes by proxy.

EXHIBIT(bus10a09)

01:49:47 **Motion:** SEN. LARSON moved that AMENDMENT SB009202.APM
BE ADOPTED.

EXHIBIT(bus10a10)

Discussion:

01:52:3 **Substitute Motion:** SEN. ESP moved that AMENDMENT for
SB 92 BE ADOPTED.

Discussion:

01:56:35 **Motion:** SEN. ESP withdrew motion on AMENDMENT.

Discussion:

01:57:00 Sen. Cocchiarella

01:57:13 Sen. Ryan

01:58:17 Sen. Esp

01:59:43 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:00:00 Sen. Balyeat

02:01:14 Pat Murdo, LSD

02:01:28 Sen. Tropila

02:02:18 Kris Leitheiser, Business and Banking Bureau,
Department of Administration (DOA)

02:03:31 Sen. Balyeat

02:03:56 Sen. Ryan

02:04:20 **Motion/Vote: SEN. RYAN moved that AMENDMENT
SB009202.APM BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimously by
voice vote.**

02:06:25 **Motion: SEN. STEINBEISSER moved that SB 92 DO PASS AS
AMENDED.**

Discussion:

02:06:39 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:09:59 Sen. Balyeat to Kris Leitheiser, DofA

02:11:09 Sen. Brown

02:12:34 Sen. Steinbeisser

02:13:09 Sen. Cocchiarella to Sen. Brown

02:14:28 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Brown

02:15:50 Sen. Balyeat to Kris Leitheiser, DofA

02:16:55 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:17:45 Sen. Ryan

02:20:09 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:20:20 Sen. Esp

02:21:14 **Substitute/Motion: SEN. ESP moved AMENDMENT
for SB 92 BE ADOPTED.**

Discussion:

02:22:42 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:22:57 **Motion:** SEN. ESP withdrew motion on AMENDMENT.

Discussion:

02:23:09 Sen. Ryan

02:23:41 Sen. Esp

02:24:07 Sen. Ryan

02:25:03 Sen. Balyeat

02:25:39 Sen. Esp

02:26:09 Kris Leitheiser, DofA

02:26:50 **Motion:** SEN. ESP moved AMENDMENT for SB 92 BE ADOPTED.

02:27:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion:

02:27:54 Sen. Esp

02:28:18 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. ESP moved that SB 92 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried 10-1 by voice vote with SEN. BROWN voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:30 A.M.

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

VC/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([bus10aad.pdf](#))